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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,166	03/26/2004	Binh T. Nguyen	IGTIP104/P000897-001	8341
79646 7590 12/10/2009 Weaver Austin Villeneuve & Sampson LLP - IGT Attn: IGT P.O. Box 70250 Oakland, CA 94612-0250				
EXAMINER				
KIM, ANDREW				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3714				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/10/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

USPTO@wavsip.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/810,166

Applicant(s)

NGUYEN ET AL.

Examiner

ANDREW KIM

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10-27, 30-35 and 38-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10-27, 30-35 and 38-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-27, 30-35, and 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mastera et al. (US 6,315,666).

Claims 1, 22-24, 33, 38. A gaming machine adapted for accepting wagers and granting monetary awards, comprising:

a master gaming controller adapted to control game play and authorize payouts and other awards on said gaming machine, said master gaming controller located in a main cabinet of the gaming machine (fig. 5, 8:15-25);

one or more major components, wherein at least one of said one or more major components comprises a top box that contains a plurality of peripheral devices and a first universal communication interface, is adapted to be removable from said gaming machine, and is interchangeable with other similar major components also so adapted (fig. 3-4, 6:38-67, a secondary display is provided in the top portion of a gaming machine. That entire portion will be referred to herein as a top box. The top box is preferably a modular portion of the gaming machine which can be removed and reinstalled as necessary.); and

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a universal gaming engine located outside the main cabinet (fig. 3e, display module 329, fig. 6, multislave module 508, video subsection 613) said universal gaming engine having at least one dedicated processing unit, at least one associated storage device and a second universal communication interface, wherein said universal gaming engine is adapted to control a substantial portion of said plurality of peripheral devices on said removable and interchangeable major component (7:39-50, 8:50-67, 9:57-10:42). Major component comprising one or more items dedicated toward a first game theme or second game them (16:65-67)

Claim 2. Mastera discloses wherein said removable and interchangeable major component is adapted to detach from both said main cabinet (6:38-67).

Claim 4. Mastera discloses wherein said universal gaming engine is interposed between said main cabinet and said top box, and said removable and interchangeable major component and said universal gaming engine are adapted to detach from said main cabinet as a combined unit (fig. 3 and 4).

Claim 5, 25. Mastera discloses wherein said removable and interchangeable major component is adapted to detach from said universal gaming engine (fig. 3e, 1).

Claims 6, 26, 34. Mastera discloses wherein said removable and interchangeable major component comprises a top box (6:38-67).

Claims 7, 27, 35. Mastera discloses wherein said universal gaming engine comprises a universal top box engine, said universal top box engine adapted to control all peripheral devices on said top box (fig. 6, 7:39-67, 8:50-67).

Claim 10, 30. Mastera discloses wherein said universal gaming engine is adapted to control all of the plurality of peripheral devices on a top box (fig. 6, 7:39-67, 8:50-67).

Claim 11. Mastera discloses wherein said universal gaming engine contains a power supply adapted to provide power to said removable and interchangeable major component (7:55).

Claim 12. Mastera discloses wherein said universal gaming engine comprises a communications buffer between said master gaming controller and a substantial portion of said plurality of peripheral devices on said removable and interchangeable major component (fig. 5 and 6, the data bus).

Claim 13. Mastera discloses wherein said dedicated processing unit comprises a central processing unit residing on said universal gaming engine (7:39-50, 8:50-67, 9:57-10:42).

Claims 14-16, 31. Mastera discloses an operating system code such as Windows or Linux that is approved for use in a gaming machine (10:52).

Claim 17, 39, 40. Mastera discloses wherein said plurality of peripheral devices comprises one or more devices selected from the group consisting of a video display unit, a speaker, an audio amplifier, a light, a touch screen, an input button, a coin acceptor, a bill acceptor, a ticket acceptor, a coin hopper, a coin dispenser, a ticket printer, a card reader and a mechanical motor (fig. 3-6).

Claim 18, 32. Mastera discloses wherein said first universal communication interface mates with said second universal communication interface (fig. 3, 4, 5, and 6, netplex and serial connection).

Claim 19. Mastera discloses wherein said second universal communication interface comprises a standardized layout of physical connections that is consistent across a plurality of other universal gaming engines (fig. 3, 4, 5, and 6, netplex and serial connection).

Claim 20. Mastera discloses wherein said standardized layout of physical connections comprises a grid of ported connections (fig. 3, 4, 5, and 6, netplex and serial connection).

Claim 21. Mastera discloses wherein said standardized layout of physical connections comprises a power connection adapted to provide power across a mating of universal communication interfaces (fig. 3, 4, 5, and 6, netplex and serial connection, 8:55).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mastera et al. (US 6,315,666).

Claim 3. Mastera substantially discloses the invention as claimed but fails to explicitly teach that said universal gaming engine is adapted to remain attached to said gaming machine despite any detachment of said removable and interchangeable major

component. However, it is obvious that an artisan may take the top box off however the wires from the module may still be connected to the gaming machine.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8/24/09 have been fully considered and they are persuasive but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Regarding claim 6, 26 and 34, the dependent claims no longer further limit the independent claim.

Regarding the Jenkins reference, it has been removed from the grounds of rejection and therefore is a moot argument.

Regarding the Quest reference, it has been removed from the grounds of rejection and therefore is a moot argument.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDREW KIM whose telephone number is (571)272-1691. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dmitry Suhol can be reached on 571-272-4430. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dmitry. Suhol/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3714

12/8/2009
/A. K./
Examiner, Art Unit 3714


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TC3700